

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 6/16/2015	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Trish Avery Caldwell (805) 788-2601	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a FY 2015-16 new service contract (Clerk's File) for the Independent Living Program (ILP)/Extended Foster Care (EFC) with Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI), a local foster family agency, in the amount of \$380,594. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a new service contract with Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI), a local foster family agency, for the Independent Living Program (ILP)/Extended Foster Care (EFC) for FY 2015-16 in the amount of \$380,594.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Federal 55% State 45%	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$380,594	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) 19001529		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Morgan Torell			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services/Trish Avery Caldwell
(805) 788-2601

DATE: 6/16/2015

SUBJECT: Request to approve a FY 2015-16 new service contract (Clerk's File) for the Independent Living Program (ILP)/Extended Foster Care (EFC) with Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI), a local foster family agency, in the amount of \$380,594. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a new service contract with Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI), a local foster family agency, for the Independent Living Program (ILP)/Extended Foster Care (EFC) for FY 2015-16 in the amount of \$380,594.

DISCUSSION

Nationwide, the foster care system serves around 400,000 children temporarily removed from abusive or neglectful homes, or children that no longer have a parent(s) that can provide care for other reasons [(2014 Adm. for Children and Families, The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), Statistics, Report #21, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb>)]. Statewide there are approximately 55,000 children and youth in foster care (2012, Annie E. Casey Foundation, www.kidsdata.org; Topic: School and Youth Safety/Foster Care) and locally the Department of Social Services of San Luis Obispo County (DSS) provides foster care services to around three hundred and fifty (350) children and youth each year ([Department of Social Services Snapshot of Children in Foster Care, December 31, 2014](#)). Of these, approximately 200 youth age 14-21 participate in the local ILP.

To help foster care youth succeed as they enter adulthood and independence, the State provides funding to counties for the Independent Living Program (ILP) and Extended Foster Care (EFC) services. These are mandated programs with services focused in four (4) key areas: employment, life skills, education and vocational training, and permanency. Employment services are designed to meet the special individual needs of foster youth and offer access to subsidized employment, career resource centers, and an employment specialist dedicated to guiding and supporting each youth in employment related decisions. The Life Skills component includes teaching about budgeting, smart shopping, finding and keeping housing, and various health services. While gaining important life skills knowledge, ILP staff work with youth to outline education and vocational training opportunities available to them. Educational services include comprehensive assessment testing, creating an individual education plan, availability of an academic counselor, and one-on-one guidance with vocational training programs.

Foster youth are also provided with services aimed at identifying permanent adult relationships before exiting foster care. These services complement Assembly Bill 12 ([AB 12](#)) which became effective January 2012 and emphasizes the need for foster youth/young adults to establish supportive adult relationships beyond the age of 18 years. Research shows that youth connected to a positive and supportive adult upon leaving the foster care system are more likely to obtain stable housing, be employed and have life-long positive and supportive relationships. While AB 12 acknowledges the importance of positive adult/parental relationships for youth/young adults, the major impact of [AB 12](#) (All County Letter (ACL) [ACL 11-61](#)) is extended foster care monetary benefits for youth until they are age 21. Receiving benefits for a

longer period of time enables youth/young adults to stabilize while learning how to manage work and/or school and domestic responsibilities like shopping, staying in housing, saving, and budgeting.

In February 2015, the County released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for ILP/EFC services that closed on March 13, 2015. Based on the RFP evaluation criteria, DSS selected Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI). FCNI is a private, nonprofit local foster family agency (FFA) that began providing services in 1987 with the purpose of creating family-based treatment programs as an alternative to group home or institutional care for children and youth. The agency's mission is "to enhance the well-being of children and families in partnership with our community" and serves approximately 1,600 children, youth and families annually ([2013-2014 FCNI Annual Report](#)). The agency provides extensive Transitional Age Youth (TAY) services under five (5) programs:

1. Transitional Housing Placement Program
2. Transitional Housing Program-Plus
3. Transitional Housing Program-Plus Foster Care
4. Independent Living Program (ILP)
5. Transitional Age Youth Financial Assistance Program

FCNI has been providing supportive services to TAY for over 26 years in San Luis Obispo County and is currently the ILP provider in Santa Barbara County. The ILP contract with the County will be an expansion of services already being provided. For more information about services offered by FCNI you may visit their website at www.fcni.org.

Approval of this new contract will ensure FCNI provides ILP/EFC services for the County in support of the outcomes of Assembly Bill 636 (AB 636), the Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act (better known as the System Improvement Plan or SIP), which focuses on continuous improvement, interagency partnerships, community involvement and public reporting on outcomes. These services support the Department and County goal of ensuring all people in the community enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

This contract was developed in partnership with the FCNI and County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract as to legal form and effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The total contract amount for FCNI for ILP/EFC is \$380,594. The contract is included in the Department of Social Services adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16 and will require no additional General Fund contribution.

Agency	FY 14-15	Budgeted FY 15-16	Notes	Sharing Ratios		
				Federal	State	County
Family Care Network, Inc.	\$0	\$380,594	Independent Living Program and Extended Foster Care	55%	45%	0%

RESULTS

The ILP and EFC service contract is new for FCNI this year and therefore there are no prior year performance outcomes. Prior performance outcomes used to monitor ILP/EFC services were updated and aligned with the State Report that the County completes annually.

Performance outcomes:

Serve all youth/young adults (participants) who participate in the ILP and EFC and report in the following age groups: 14-15; 16-17 and 18-20.

Participants served will achieve the following outcomes upon completion of the Money Management curriculum:

- 85% of eligible participants will be able to follow a household budget.
- 90% of eligible participants will have a savings account.
- 100% of participants will receive financial literacy education.

Participants served will achieve the following outcomes upon completion of the Job Skills/Career Planning curriculum:

- 100% of eligible participants will complete a skills and aptitude assessment.
- 100% of eligible participants will be tested for their computer/internet skills with the expectation they will demonstrate basic proficiency with identified activities to obtain competency in this area.
- 100% of eligible participants will prepare a resume and complete a master job application to use when completing future applications.
- 95% of eligible participants will establish a career objective and goal(s).
- 85% of eligible participants will be working if not in school (age 18 and above).
- 100% of eligible participants will be seeking work if not in school or already employed (age 18 and above).
- 100% of participants age 18 and above who do not choose to enroll in post secondary education will be referred to the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) mentoring program.

Participants served will achieve the following outcomes upon completion of the Educational Planning curriculum:

- 90% of participants who are eligible for a General Education Degree (GED)/High School (HS) graduation will obtain their diploma or its equivalent by the end of contract year.
- 100% of eligible high school enrolled participants with a grade level below a "C" in any core class (i.e., English, Math, Science, Social Studies/Government) will have a plan developed to help bring them up to a "C" level including assigning a tutor if appropriate.
- 100% of eligible participants age 14 and above will be referred for college counseling and planning by a County selected service provider.
- 95% of eligible participants will establish a college/vocational training plan.
- 75% of eligible participants will enroll in higher education/vocational training.

Participants served will achieve the following Health and Wellbeing outcomes:

- 100% of participants will complete a health self-assessment. Based on the assessment additional support and referrals will be given.
- 100% of eligible participants will have information (verbal and/or written) provided in the areas of substance abuse, pregnancy prevention, sexually transmitted infections, and maintaining healthy relationships.
- 100% of participant's who are eighteen (18) or older, will have an active Medi-Cal card and know of at least one provider to obtain necessary health services.
- 100% of participants will be currently receiving needed health services including having received a wellness check for medical and dental within the last twelve (12) months.

Participants served will achieve the following Independent Living outcomes:

- 100% of eligible participants will have a documented assessment of their daily living skills with identified activities for attaining competency in other necessary areas.
- 100% of eligible participants will have a documented assessment of their survival skills with identified activities for attaining competency in other necessary areas.
- 100% of eligible participants will demonstrate the skills to obtain safe, stable and secure housing.
- 100% of eligible participants will establish a transportation plan including being able to use public transportation as needed.
- 100% of eligible participants eighteen (18) or older will have originals/copies of all vital documents.
- 100% of eligible participants eighteen (18) or older will have information about essential community resources and know how to access them (e.g., food, counseling, and housing).

Participants served will achieve the following Permanent Supportive Relationship outcomes:

- 100% of eligible participants will complete a permanency self-assessment. Based on the assessment additional support and referrals will be given.
- 100% of eligible participants who request a mentor will be assigned one.
- 100% of eligible participants will have a written plan of their community-based support team.

100% of eligible participants will successfully complete their Transition to Independent Living Plan (TILP) goals.

ATTACHMENTS

1. FCNI ILP Clerk's File Statement